

A MASON RECORD



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A MASON RECORD



THE MASON STATUE
Pequot Hill, Mystic, Connecticut

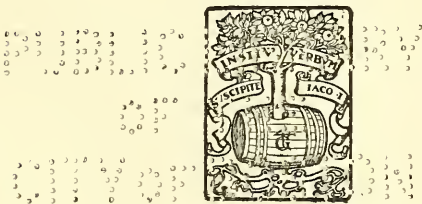
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FAMILY RECORD
IN OUR LINE OF DESCENT FROM

Major John Mason of Norwich
Connecticut

BY
THEODORE WEST MASON

*"There is a Moral and Philosophical respect for our Ancestors
which elevates the character and improves the heart."*
—WEBSTER



THE GRAFTON PRESS
NEW YORK
MCMIX

*CS71
.M41
1909

4339.140

Theodore W. Mason.
June 9 1909

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NOTES TO YTD

IT is noticeable, the great change of view that has taken place of late years with the development of the inner and truer history of the New England colonial life.

Wealth and leisure have brought to men of culture and travel, and intelligent interest in such things, the means to procure and bring to this country records and manuscripts that confute the ultra-logical conclusions which have had credence.

The old New England historical societies are growing rich in these accessions, as well as in the discovery and restoring of ancient records long buried here at home, that help dispel the mistaken fancies and the prejudices of the past.

“Whatever may have taken place later, the Puritanism of the first forty years of the seventeenth century was not tainted with degrading or ungraceful associations of any sort. The rank, the wealth, the chivalry, the genius, the learning, the accomplishments, the social refinements and elegance of the time, were largely represented in its ranks. The Earls of Leicester, Bedford, Huntington, and Warwick, Sir Nicholas Bacon, his greater son, Walsingham, Burleigh, Mildmay, Sadler, Knollys, were specimens of a host of eminent men more or less friendly to, or tolerant of it. The Parliamentary general, Devereaux, Earl of Essex, was formed with every grace of person, mind and culture, to be the ornament of a splendid court, the model knight; and the position of Manchester, Warwick, Fairfax, and men of their class, was by birthright in the most polished circle of English society. The statesmen of the first period of that Parliament which by and by dethroned Charles the First, had been bred in the luxury of the landed aristocracy of the realm; while of the nobility, Manchester, Essex, Warwick, Brooke, Fairfax, and others, and of the gentry, a long roll of men of the scarcely inferior position of Hampden and Waller, commanded and officered its armies and fleets. With such aids, the first effort of a large number of its most capable clergy had been to influence the Church in the natural progress of the sentiment of reform.

Puritanism, from the outbreak of the Great Rebellion, was subjected to the infelicities and abuses which necessarily attend a formidable and successful party." (Palfrey's *New England*.)

The true genesis of New England life began with the colony which landed in Massachusetts Bay. The social elements that had collected on the spot were very diverse. The company of settlers at Plymouth were not homogeneous. Bancroft, referring to their life and habits in his review of the settlement of New England, writes that "candour compels us to say, they had no direct and but little indirect influence in shaping its development."

The projectors and leaders of the Massachusetts Company as many writers have shown—in the words of Professor Hale: "They were not the same men; their history was not the same; their industries were not the same; they were men who in England were called another class; people who had been in the Universities, people who had been in the Court, people who had friends at Court," and Palfrey says of them, "The principal planters of Massachusetts were English country gentlemen of no inconsiderable fortunes; of enlarged understandings, improved by liberal education."

Elliott in his *History* says, "Let it be remembered that these were still members of the Church of England, though non-conformists, not separatists," and that "Associated were many gentlemen of wealth and consequence in London City, as well as gentlemen Squires, and others, Lords of Manors, who sought a change."

He speaks of the relations in which they left the old country:

"The Massachusetts Bay Colonists did not wish to be considered Independents. To guard against the charge of being separatists, Winthrop and his friends, before sailing for Massachusetts Bay, issued 7 April, 1630, from the *Arbella* at Falmouth, an address to the people of England, desiring them to take notice of the principal and body of our Company, as those who esteem it our honour to call the Church of England, from whence we rise, our dear Mother."

In Prince's *Annals* I, he refers to "the far greater part of the Puritans remaining still in the Church, writing with zeal against the separatists." The Puritans desired reformation within the

Church of England itself, and those who came to Massachusetts Bay and later severed their connection with the English Church, did so only after such a reformation proved impracticable.

Professor Hale, in one of his addresses, describes their debarking: "Our prosperous Massachusetts Colony made the shore and landed on the next day, on the 21st of June, in the glow of summer, landed in the midst of strawberries and flowers and all the luxuries of the Beverly shore, with the dignified arrangements of those who came in a fleet, fortified by the charter of a King, to carry on a Government in a way predetermined in London." And then a circumstance of great weight and consideration in these days, of which Senator Depew speaks: "They brought with them £500,000 in gold and silver money, estimated to be the equivalent in our time of not less than \$15,000,000. The history of immigration may be searched in vain for any parallel. These people were led by graduates of Oxford and Cambridge. They were educated and prosperous beyond the mass of their countrymen. They came to found homes and build a State. They were *colonists* come to found settlements, *not immigrants* for adoption into already formed governments. They left comfortable homes, and came among the first to this favoured land to prepare the institutions under whose beneficent influence those of other countries could find justice, and opportunity, and progress." They were in every class of life of pure English descent, almost all of them coming from the midland counties.

Palfrey, in the preface to his first volume, states: "Their coming to New England began in 1620. It was inconsiderable till 1630. At the end of ten years more, it almost ceased. A people consisting at that time of not many more than twenty thousand persons, thenceforward multiplied on its own soil in remarkable seclusion from other communities, for nearly a century and a half. During that long period, and for many years later, their identity was unimpaired. Exceptions to this statement are of small account. In 1652, after the battles of Dunbar and Worcester, Cromwell sent some four or five hundred of his Scotch prisoners to Boston; but very little trace of this accession is left. The discontented strangers took no root. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, about a hundred and

fifty families of French Huguenots came to Massachusetts, where, though their names have mostly died out, a considerable number of their posterity are still to be found. A hundred and twenty Scotch-Irish families came over in 1719, and settled in New Hampshire. Thus the people of New England are a singularly unmixed race. There is probably not a county in England occupied by a population of purer English blood than theirs."

The Puritan was a strict moralist, and in politics he was the liberal of his day. In an address before the New England Society the Rev. Dr. William Reed Huntington, a descendant of Christopher of Norwich, describes them as idealists, not visionaries but practical men of ideas. "They had set their hearts on solving the problem of the perfect commonwealth. They left the old England because they thought, mistakenly as it has turned out, but they honestly thought she was past saving, and came to this untenanted coast that they might build an England new. The profoundest view of the history of the United States is that which sees in it a continuation of the history of England. It is more, but it is that. Witness that best of all flattery, which at this very moment the old England is paying to the new, the flattery of imitation."

Hollister, in his History of Connecticut, writes of the founders: "I have said that the first English planters of Connecticut were of no vulgar origin; they had made great sacrifices to remove their families and their friends to America. Laborers were few, and they had no money to transport them in such numbers as were needed in a new country.

"The best planters, therefore, could find nothing degrading in the use of the ax or the plow—it is true they brought with them many servants, but most of them were so from temporary causes; but the planters, the substantial land holders, who began to plant those 'three vines in the wilderness', sprung from the better classes, and a large proportion of them from the landed gentry of England. This fact is proved not only by tracing individual families, but by the very names that those founders bore. From actual examination it appears that more than four-fifths of the early landed proprietors of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor belonged to families that had arms granted to them

in Great Britain. This large infusion of the blood of the better class of English families might lead, were it philosophically considered, to an explanation of much that has been thought to be new and peculiar in our institutions and our people.

I should hardly expect to be contradicted by any well informed genealogist either in England or America, were I to express my belief that there is hardly a man now living whose descent can be traced to the early planters of Connecticut, who will not be found to be derived, through one branch or another of his pedigree, from those families who helped to frame the British Constitution, who elaborated by slow degrees the Common Law, who advocated the doctrines of both with their tongues and their pens, or defended them with their swords."

The traditional respect of the freemen for advantages of social position was great, and family prestige had much influence.

He directs attention to the early titles used in Connecticut, and the distinctions they conveyed. "I have found in the records of no people, worthy to be called civilized, the internal evidences of grade and rank adjusted more carefully than can be traced in the files and books of the early documentary history of our own Colony. The lines drawn around these respective classes were not so strict as to be in the way of personal merit when it sought to rise; but were sufficiently so to characterize the several grades."

The following are among those described. It is well to note here that the clergymen who were with the early planters of Connecticut, some twenty in number, were most every one of good family among the gentry of England; and all of them, Hollister describes as "gentlemen of uncommon powers of mind, of elegant manners, and thorough-bred scholars, in an age when scholars were rare." Several of them afterwards returned to England.

Military titles were considered of a very high order until the close of the Revolution, and before then took precedence, except of the clergy.

"Honourable" was not used until 1685, and for many years given only to the Governor, and occasionally to the Deputy-Governor.

"Esquire" was very rarely used for the first century, and indicated especially one of importance and large estate, having

about the same signification that it had in England, being placed after the name, and before or after that of the place of residence.

"Master"—"Mr." belonged to all gentlemen, including those designated by the higher marks of rank, for nearly the first one hundred and fifty years, and was an index of good birth, education and estate, corresponding to the English term of "Gentleman," placed at the end of the name usually as "Gent."

These titles continued, with the significance and influence they had under the old Colonial charter, until about twenty years after the close of the Revolution. I have, therefore, down to that generation taken pains to retain the titles borne by members of the family; after that period, in the new order of things, the application made of these terms changed entirely the meaning and consequence that had once distinguished them.

The plan of this work may seem to require some prefatory statement. Its subject might have been treated in a regularly arranged genealogical chart or form. But the intention is to give a short sketch of the head of each family; and a sufficient account of the wife's family to locate and designate distinctly her connection, that for further information the one desiring it may turn to such record. With the marriage of a daughter, enough is given for the same object.

In compiling the Register my purpose has been to have in more convenient form of reference for those interested, the record of this branch of the family, with authority to be had for everything written, and the wish to avoid any use of time and space in matter not essential.

Greenwich, Conn.,
1893

THEODORE W. MASON

MAJOR John Mason, our ancestor in this country, was born in England about the year 1601.

He was a lieutenant in the English army in the wars of the Netherlands, with his friend and companion-in-arms, Lord Thomas Fairfax, who was in General Sir Horace de Vere's command at the siege of Bois-le-Duc from April to July, or about five months in 1630.

He was of good descent and a young man of promise, which is indicated by the fact that, after the outbreak of civil war between King Charles I. and Parliament, Sir Thomas Fairfax, when made Commander-in-chief in 1645, addressed a letter to Major Mason in America urging him to return to England, join his standard, and accept a Major-General's commission in the Parliamentary army. "The invitation was however declined, he being then much interested in laying the foundations of a new Colony." (Connecticut.)

He came over "with other officers and many gentlemen of wealth and distinction," when the movement became general under the Charter of the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England.

He was stationed at Dorchester in December of 1632, in an official capacity under the commission of the Governor of Massachusetts, and was also a Deputy from that town to the General Court. In September 1634 he was member of a board appointed to plan the fortifications of Boston Harbour, and was especially in charge of the erection of the works on Castle Island, one of the most important points. (Now Fort Independence.)

His life in this country was passed in the following positions of honour and trust:

Lieutenant and Captain at Boston and Dorchester, for several years.

Conqueror of the Pequots, Magistrate and Major at Windsor, twelve.

Commandant of the Fort and Commissioner of the United Colonies at Saybrook, twelve.

Deputy-Governor and Assistant at Norwich, twelve.

He was commander-in-chief of the forces of the colony of Connecticut, the rank corresponding to that of major-general, and retained the position for the remainder of his life, thirty-five years.

He was one of the Patentees and named therein the Deputy-Governor of the colonial charter of 1662, granted by King Charles II, confirming to the "Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America" the title and jurisdiction of all the territory conveyed to the Earl of Warwick. This is the historic charter famous as being hidden and preserved from seizure in the old "Charter Oak" at Hartford during the usurpation of Sir Edmund Andross. The same is to be seen in the State House, upon proper application, where it is kept with great care.

He prepared, at the request of the General Court of Connecticut, an account of the Pequot War, which was published by Mather in 1677, and reprinted from the original by Mr. Thomas Prince in 1735 in more complete form, with the prefaces and some explanatory notes.

The State of Connecticut erected in 1889 a statue to commemorate the successful expedition of Major Mason and his command in 1637. It stands on the crest of Pequot Hill, near the west bank of the Mystic river, within a short distance of the location of the Indian fort captured and destroyed.

The inscription on the panelled base is:

ERECTED A.D., 1889,
BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
TO COMMEMORATE THE HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT OF
MAJOR JOHN MASON
AND HIS COMRADES, WHO NEAR THIS SPOT,
IN 1637, OVERTHREW THE PEQUOT INDIANS,
AND PRESERVED THE SETTLEMENTS FROM DESTRUCTION.

"Major Mason was in person tall and portly, and in manner dignified. He was wise and prompt in planning, and energetic

in executing, as a commander brave and self-reliant; and was equally distinguished for the purity of his morals and for his fearlessness in defending and maintaining the right."

He married, in July, 1640, Miss Anne Peck, who was born in 1619, the daughter of the Rev. Robert Peck of Hingham, Norfolkshire, England.

His wife died before him in Norwich.

He died, 30 Jany., 1672, in Norwich, Conn., of which town he was a founder, and one of the largest proprietors in that country-side, and was there buried. The traditional place of his burial is at Bean Hill, near the south side of the Post Road.

HAD ISSUE AS FOLLOWS:

PRISCILLA, b. Oct., 1641, at Windsor; m. in Oct., 1664, Rev.

James Fitch of Norwich; d. about 1714.

SAMUEL, b. July, 1644, at Windsor.

JOHN, b. Aug., 1646, at Windsor.

RACHEL, b. Oct., 1648, at Saybrook; m. 12 June, 1678, Mr.

Charles Hill of New London; d. 4 April, 1679.

ANNE, b. June, 1650, at Saybrook; m. 8 Nov., 1672, Captain

John Browne of Swansea, Mass.

DANIEL, b. April, 1652, at Saybrook.

ELIZABETH, b. Aug., 1654, at Saybrook; m. 1 Jany., 1676,

Major James Fitch of Norwich, eldest son of Rev. James Fitch and Abigail Whitfield; d. 8 Oct., 1684.

Rev. Robert Peck, M.A., "was a descendant of John Pecke, Gentleman, of Belton, Yorkshire, England, where the family were early seated and were one of much distinction and prominence among the gentry of influence." He was born in Beeches, Suffolkshire, in 1580. He was graduated at Magdalen College, Cambridge, in 1599.

He was instituted rector of St. Andrew's parish in Hingham, Norfolkshire, the 8 Jany., 1605, where he remained until 1638, when he came to Hingham, Massachusetts, and was made minister of the church there on the 28 Nov., 1638. His wife and his son Joseph and daughter Anne came with him. He continued

here about three years until the troubles in England ceased, when he returned the 27 Oct., 1641, and resumed his rectorship at Hingham. His wife Anne and son returned with him, his daughter remaining here, the wife of Captain Mason. He died at Hingham in 1656, and was buried under the choir of St. Andrew's church, "a noble structure, with a large and lofty tower containing eight musical bells."

Gen. 1.

MAJOR SAMUEL, the eldest son, was a man of prominence and distinction, and had great influence in the affairs of the Colony.

He was commissioned lieutenant, 12 May, 1670; captain 14 May, 1685, and promoted to the rank of major.

He was often Deputy to the General Court, and for years chosen Assistant to the upper house. He was appointed on many courts of commission, and to other important positions.

At a special court held at Hartford the 3 Sept., 1689, Captain Mason was selected with Deputy-Governor the Hon. James Bishop, Esquire, to meet with the delegates of the other colonies in Boston, and determine methods for the defence of New England. He was also one of the commissioners to meet with Rhode Island for defining the boundary line between the two colonies.

He was one of the four proprietors by the original deed of 1692 from Owaneco, son of Uncas, of the territory five miles square lying northerly of the town of Norwich, and called the "Five Mile Purchase." This land, increased by a second similar conveyance in 1702 from the Mohican chief to his brother Captain John Mason and his cousin James Fitch, with some lesser additions, afterward formed the town of Lebanon.

He married in June, 1670, Judith, b. in 1650, the daughter of Captain John Smith of Hingham, Mass., and had issue:

JOHN, b. 19 Aug., 1676; d. 20 Mar., 1705.

ANNE, who m. her first cousin, Captain John Mason, 3d.

SARAH, who m., 2 Nov., 1703, her first cousin Joseph Fitch, Esquire, of Lebanon, a man of wealth and large land owner.

He married again on the 4 July, 1694, Elizabeth, b. 1657, dau. of Joseph Peck, Esquire, of Massachusetts, and had issue:

SAMUEL, b. 26 Aug., 1695; d. 28 Nov., 1701.

ELIZABETH, b. 6 May, 1697; m. 13 Oct., 1720, Rev. William Worthington.

HANNAH, b. 14 Apl., 1699; d. Nov., 1724.

He died 30 Mar., 1705, at Stonington.

His son John d. unmarried, thus leaving none of the name descendant in this line.

Gen. 1. CAPTAIN JOHN, JR., the next son, early entered public life, being Deputy to the General Court for several years. He was chosen Assistant in May of the very year of his decease. He was commissioned lieutenant 26 June, 1672, and captain the 15 Sept., 1675.

He was third in command of the Connecticut quota sent forward under Major Treat to join in the attack of the United Colonies on the Narragansetts in King Philip's War. He was mortally wounded at the Great Swamp Fight the 19 Dec., 1675, and was carried to New London where he lingered until his death the 18 Sept., 1676.

He married Abigail, b. 5 Aug., 1650, dau. of the Rev. James Fitch of Norwich, and had issue,

CAPTAIN JOHN, 3d. b. 1673.

ANNE, who m. in 1690, Captain John Denison of Stonington.

There is no complete record of the descent from this son. He m. 18 July, 1701, his first cousin, Anne Mason, dau. of Major Samuel, and again m. 15 July, 1719, Mrs. Anne Sanford Noyes, dau. of Governor Peleg Sanford of Rhode Island, and granddaughter of Governor William Coddington of Newport, R. I. After several journeys to England where he had gone to prosecute the land claims under the Indian titles, he died in London in Dec., 1736.

Gen. 1. CAPTAIN DANIEL MASON, the youngest son, by whom is our descent, occupied in Stonington "an ample domain confirmed by the Colony to his father, near the borders of Long Island Sound." This estate comprised Chippacursett Island in Mystic Bay, since then called Mason Island, and a large tract of upland and meadow. He was commissioned quartermaster of the New London County Troop of Dragoons 17 Oct., 1673, in the twenty-

first year of his age; was lieutenant 9 Oct., 1701, and promoted to the rank of captain.

While staying in Norwich, after the death of his wife in May of 1678, he filled for a short time, in 1679, the office of instructor at the newly established 'School on the Plain'.

Upon his marriage with Miss Hobart he returned to Stonington as his permanent place of residence.

He was closely identified with the interests of the town, representing it at times as Deputy to the General Court, and was influential in the affairs of the Colony.

He married, in 1673, Margaret, b. 15 Dec., 1650, dau. of Mr. Edward Denison of Roxbury, Mass., and Elizabeth, dau. of Captain Joseph Welde.

HAD ISSUE:

DANIEL, b. 26 Nov., 1674, in Stonington.

HEZEKIAH, b. 3 May, 1677, in Roxbury, Mass., lived in Windham, Conn. He was m. twice and had a family of nine children—two were sons; he died 15 Dec., 1726.

She died 13 May, 1678, in Stonington.

Mr. Denison was born in Bishop-Stortford on the east border of Hertfordshire, where the family had long been seated. He was about fifteen years of age when his father William Denison, Esquire, came over in 1631, having with him his wife Margaret and three sons, and as tutor in his family the Rev. John Eliot, afterwards the translator of the Bible into the Indian language. He was a graduate of Cambridge University, and his sons were liberally educated and carefully bred. He brought with him considerable wealth, and settled in Roxbury, and was of great influence in the colony.

Edward, who died 26 April, 1668, always resided in Roxbury where he was prominent and much respected, and a member of the General Court. Of a large family he left none of the name descendant; his son William, a clergyman and graduate of Harvard, who died in 1718, being the last of the name in this line. His elder brother, Major-General Daniel Denison, married Patience, dau. of Governor Thomas Dudley; he was highly distinguished both in civil and military affairs in Massachusetts,

commanding the forces, was Speaker of the House, and for twenty-nine years an Assistant. His youngest brother, Captain George, went back to England for active service in the army, and after several years returned to become one of the most noted soldiers of Connecticut, in her early settlement.

He married again, 10 Oct., 1679, Rebecca, b. 9 April, 1654, dau. of Rev. Peter Hobart of Hingham, Mass., and had issue:

PETER, b. 9 Nov., 1680; m. 8 July, 1703, Miss Mary Hobart.

REBECCA, b. 10 Feby., 1682; m. 6 Feby., 1707, Elisha Chesebrough, Esquire.

MARGARET, b. 21 Dec., 1683.

SAMUEL, b. 11 Feby., 1686.

ABIGAIL, b. 3 Feby., 1689.

PRISCILLA, b. 17 Sept., 1691; m. 25 May, 1710, Theophilus Baldwin of Stonington. His grandfather was Henry Baldwin, Esquire, who held the Manor of Dundridge in Aston-Clinton, Buckinghamshire, England.

NEHEMIAH, b. 24 Nov., 1693, m. 9 Jany., 1722, Zerviah, b. 20 Sept., 1704, dau. of Joseph and Margaret Chesebrough Stanton of Stonington. He d. 13 May, 1768. He was the owner of Mason Island, Mystic, Conn.

She died the 8 Apl., 1727.

He died 28 Jany., 1737, at Stonington, and was there buried.

The Rev. Mr. Hobart was the son of Edmund Hobart of Hingham, Norfolkshire, England, who came over about 1635, and was one of the early planters of Hingham, Mass., and a Deputy to the General Court. He graduated at Magdalen College, Cambridge in 1626, and was ordained in 1627, by the Right Rev. Joseph Hall, D.D., Bishop of Norwich, having for some years different charges in care, the last being the parish church at Haverhill, Suffolkshire. He had identified himself with the Puritan ideas, and this subjected him to a feeling of hostility with the clergy. He determined therefore to come to America whither members of his family had preceded him. He was noted for his acquirements as a scholar, and for his independence of character. A tablet to his memory is in the church at Hingham, Mass., where he died 20 Jany., 1679. Right Rev. John Henry Hobart, D.D., Bishop of New York

1811-1830, "one of the great thinkers of his times, a ready writer, a forcible speaker," was his great-grandson.

Several branches of the Hobart family have been settled in this country since early in the seventeenth century, notably in Massachusetts. Sir John Hobart, third baronet of his line, married a daughter of the patriot John Hampden, and his grandson was created Earl of Buckinghamshire, the title of the present chief of the family, by King George I.

Hampden House, the family seat of the Hobarts in Buckinghamshire, is full of relics and souvenirs of John Hampden, to whom the estate formerly belonged, and on the failure of whose male line these estates passed to the Hobarts. Among such is the family Bible of Oliver Cromwell, in which records are inscribed in his own hand. Cromwell was often a guest at Hampden House in the days of John Hampden, who not only shared his political opinions, but was also a near relative. The mansion is a grand old place, and the oldest part dates back to the times of King John and Magna Charta.

From the eldest of these sons Daniel, the issue by his first wife, Margaret Denison, comes the Lebanon, Conn., family, the Boston family, and our own descent. The descent from the other sons does not engage interest while tracing our direct line.

There have come down in the different branches of the lines of these two sons of Major Mason, men of marked mental ability, influence, position and wealth, in the learned professions, as well as in the regular army, and in commercial life.

Gen. 2.

MR. DANIEL MASON,

m. 19 Apl., 1704, Dorothy, b. 21 Aug., 1679, dau. of the Rev. Jeremiah Hobart, M. A. of Haddam, Middlesex Co., Conn., and Elizabeth, dau. of Rev. Samuel Whiting and Elizabeth St. John, of Lynn, Mass. Rev. Mr. Hobart was the son of Rev. Peter Hobart, and was born in Hingham, England. He received his degree at Harvard College in 1650, and was ordained to the ministry of the Congregational Church. His last charge was in Haddam, Conn., where he died in March, 1717.

Mr. Mason was well educated, and of independent means, and occupied an estate in the "Five Mile Purchase" in which territory the family relation then held large interests. He was active and influential in the various civil duties connected with the incorporation, by act of the General Court in 1700, of the town of Lebanon, where he died early in life on the 7th May, 1705, and was buried in Stonington.

HIS ONLY CHILD WAS:

JEREMIAH, b. 4 Mar., 1705, in Lebanon.

His widow afterwards married Hon. Hezekiah Brainerd, a man of eminence. He was Speaker of the Deputies, and was an Assistant in the upper house of the General Court, "who intrusted him with many public concerns." Jonathan Edwards writes of him as "the worshipful Hezekiah Brainerd, Esquire, one of His Majesty's Council for that Colony."

Her third son was Rev. David Brainerd the missionary to the Indians, who presented the walking cane I have in my possession to his half-brother Jeremiah Mason. A sister of Mrs. Dorothy married Hezekiah Wyllis, Esquire, Secretary of State of the colony of Connecticut, which office was held by three generations in his family in uninterrupted succession for ninety-eight years.

Gen. 3.

JEREMIAH MASON, ESQUIRE,

m. 24 May, 1727, Mary, b. 28 Dec., 1705, dau. of Mr. Thomas Clark of Haddam, Conn., and Elizabeth Leonard. Mr. Clark was the son of William Clark, Esquire, one of the original proprietors and first residents of that town, and afterwards an officer in King Philip's War. They are spoken of among the early settlers as "of an excellent stock" and "a very reputable family."

Until he was of age he passed the years with his mother in Mr. Brainerd's family, receiving a liberal education, and the care and advantages which so prominent a position conveyed. She is described as "a lady of very attractive person, of refined taste, fine intellect, and ardent piety." She died 11 Mar., 1732.

He resided in Norwich West Farms, now Franklin, where he was of recognized character and ability.

His name often appears upon the records of the town, and always in relations that show him to have occupied a leading and influential position intimately identified with its interests.

He died in the year 1779, and his wife d. 11 Apl., 1799.

HAD ISSUE:

DANIEL, b. 1 July, 1728; d. 13 Nov., 1730.

JEREMIAH, b. 21 Feby., 1730.

DOROTHY, b. 6 Apl., 1732; m. 10 Jany., 1750, Colonel Joseph Marsh, Lieut-Governor of Vermont, and three times elected to that position. He was one of the two delegates from Cumberland County to the Provincial Congress assembled in 1776 in New York City. Col. Marsh was commissioned in Jany., 1776, as commander of the "Upper Regiment" of Vermont. He was one of the Council chosen in 1785 from the ablest men of the state to revise the constitution of Vermont.

DANIEL, 2d, b. 10 Apl., 1735; d. 11 Mar., 1752.

MARY, b. 22 Dec., 1736; m. 15 Apl., 1756, her second cousin, Nathan Huntington, son of David Huntington, Esquire, of Windham, (who was grandson of the first Simon Huntington of Norwich) and Mary Mason his wife. The Right Rev. Frederick Dan Huntington, D.D., Bishop of Central New York, is of this descent, his father, the Rev. Dan Huntington, born in Lebanon, and residing in Hadley, Mass., being the great-grandson of Simon of Norwich. Daniel Mason, who married Eunice Huntington, the aunt of the Bishop, was own cousin of David Mason (Gen. 5); their fathers were brothers.

ANNA, b. 3 Mar., 1739; m. 27 Sept., 1759, William Whiting, M.D., of Great Barrington, Mass., an eminent physician, grandson of Rev. Samuel Whiting of Boston, England, and Lynn, Mass., and Elizabeth St. John, sister of Sir Oliver St. John, chief justice of the Common Pleas during the time of the Commonwealth. In the memoir of the life of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Anna Boardman, the wife of Hon. Elijah Boardman, United States senator, she is referred to

thus: "Inheriting not a little of the characteristic energy of her great forefather, Anna Mason was erect in figure and active in movement; and with her auburn tresses, bright hazel eyes, and distinctly marked features, that interpreted with great expressiveness the operations of her vigorous, active and sagacious mind, she was, altogether, a remarkable woman, whose influence in society and the domestic circle could not fail to be both felt and recognized."

DAVID, b. 2 Nov., 1742.

ELIZABETH, b. 27 Aug., 1744; m. in 1768, the Hon. Theodore Sedgwick of Sheffield, afterwards of Stockbridge, Mass. He was a graduate of Yale College, and was called to the bar in 1766. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1785-87, was United States senator from 1796-99, and president pro-tem of that body in 1798. He had been a representative upon the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and was again elected in 1799 a representative in Congress, and was chosen Speaker of the House. He was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts in 1802, and held the position until his death the 24 Jany., 1813. His judicial opinions were remarkable for clearness of expression and elegance of diction. She was his first wife, and died s. p. in May, 1771, some three years after her marriage.

(Theodore Lewis M. was named for him.)

Gen. 4.

COLONEL JEREMIAH MASON,

m. 9 May, 1754, his third cousin, Elizabeth, b. 28 June, 1731, dau. of Captain James Fitch of Lebanon, Conn., and Anne, dau. of Captain Robert Denison of Montville.

The colonel was an officer in the army of the Revolution. His epitaph says: "He was an ardent friend to his country; this he particularly evidenced by his exertions during her struggles for Independence." He owned a large estate, and equipped at his own expense, and commanded a company of Minute Men which did duty at the siege of Boston. His command was with the detachment sent out in the early part of the night to fortify Dorchester Heights.

In the autumn of 1776 he was promoted to the rank of colonel, and at the head of a regiment joined the army in the vicinity of New York City. He continued in command of his regiment until the close of the war. When General Arnold made the assault upon and burnt New London, he handled his regiment with such skill and address as to receive special mention. After the British withdrew, Colonel Mason was placed in command of Fort Trumbull, at the mouth of the harbour, for some months, until the excitement had passed away.

He resided at Lebanon where he d. 16 Apl., 1813.

His wife d. 16 Dec., 1809.

HAD ISSUE:

ABIGAIL, b. 22 Jany., 1755; m. 17 May, 1781, Andrew Fitch, son of P. Fitch of Preston, and Elizabeth Choate.

JAMES FITCH, b. 13 Dec., 1756; d. 26 Sept., 1759.

ELIZABETH, b. 20 Jany., 1759; m. in 1786, her third cousin, Judge John Griswold Hillhouse of New London, son of Judge William Hillhouse. He was a member of the legislature, and judge of the county court.

JAMES FITCH, 2d, b. 19 Feby., 1761.

ANNA, b. 27 June, 1763; m. Christopher Raymond. They had three children.

JEREMIAH, b. 27 Apl., 1768. (of Boston)

DANIEL, b. 13 Sept., 1770.

RHODA, b. 20 Apl., 1773; m. Mumford Dolbeare. They had six children.

The Fitch family was one of distinction in our Colonial annals. The Rev. James Fitch, the first minister in Saybrook and Norwich, the grandfather of Captain James, was born in Bocking, Essex, England. At the age of sixteen he had entered college at Cambridge, when he came over in 1638, the youngest of three sons, with his mother, a widow, to this country. He then passed seven years under the instruction of those eminent divines, the Rev. Mr. Hooker and his assistant the Rev. Mr. Stone, both graduates of Emanuel College, Cambridge, of which the former was a Fellow, and both regularly ordained clergymen of the Church of England, though afterwards silenced by the Spiritual Court for non-con-

formity. Mr. Fitch was ordained at Saybrook in 1646, the Rev. Mr. Hooker presiding at "this ceremony, with the imposition of hands by those appointed to that office—the same form was always used,—and was a Congregational ordination in the strictest sense of the term."

He was considered a man of great learning and piety. His penetration of mind as well as energy caused him to be often consulted in civil affairs.

Priscilla, the dau. of Major Mason, was his second wife, his first being Abigail, the dau. of the Rev. Mr. Whitfield of Guilford.

He had a large family. His sons were prosperous and extensive land owners, and prominent in the public service, and "the daughters are said to have been very handsome, attractive and accomplished ladies." Among his descendants at the time of the Revolution there were a number who sided with the mother country, and went to Canada or London to live. Several were very distinguished men in both the civil and army life of the English government.

Gen. 4.

CAPTAIN DAVID MASON,

m. 2 Dec., 1762, Susanna, b. 28 Apl., 1742; dau. of Joshua West, Esquire, of Lebanon, and Sarah, dau. of Mr. John Wattle and Judith Fitch.

✓ He inherited the property in Franklin upon which he resided for many years. Thence he removed, in 1794, to land he had purchased in Hartford, Washington County, New York.

He was on active duty during the period of the Revolution, and besides being patriotic in his personal service was liberal in the use of his estate to that end.

He d. 15 Nov., 1804 in Hartford, and was there buried.

His wife d.—

HAD ISSUE:

WEALTHY ANN, b. 13 Sept., 1763; d. 9 Apl., 1787.

SARAH, b. 3 June, 1765.

DANIEL, b. 19 Sept., 1767.

DAVID, b. 18 July, 1769.

ELIZABETH, b. 2 Dec., 1771; m. 17 Jany., 1798, Philander Lathrop, son of Simon Lathrop, Esquire, of Ontario County, New York. "She is remembered as a woman of culture and much personal worth."

MARY, b. 30 Sept., 1774; m. in Nov., 1806, Judge Wattle.

SUSAN, b. 25 Dec., 1777; m. 21 Mar., 1804, John Clark Parker, counsellor-at-law, son of Peter Parker, Esquire, of Washington County, New York.

ANNA, b. 11 May, 1779; m. 9 Nov., 1809, Judge Obadiah Noble of Tinmouth, Vt., son of Rev. Dr. Noble.

CYNTHIA, b. 3 Sept., 1781; m. in Dec., 1808, Judge Nathaniel Hall of Whitehall, New York.

Joshua West, Esquire, was prominent in the public services expected of one in his station of life at that day. He was frequently a deputy to the General Court, and selected to act on courts of commission and chosen to other important positions. At the session of the General Court in May, 1775, he was made a member of the first Committee of Safety appointed to advise with the governor. This committee consisted of nine of the most noted men of affairs in the colony. He always lived in Lebanon, where he died 9 Nov., 1783. His tombstone is in the Old Cemetery.

The West family of New England was originally from Wherwell, in Hants or Hampshire, near Andover, where, in 1587, William West, Lord De La Warre, was lord of that Manor. Sir Thomas West, Lord De La Warre, was the first governor and captain-general of Virginia under the charter of 1609; and Francis West, brother of Lord De La Warre, was admiral of New England in 1607, and in Dec., 1627, was appointed to succeed Sir George Yeardley as governor of Virginia. The ancestors of those of the name came to New England and Virginia in 1633 and 1635, and lived in different parts. Matthew West who was at Lynn, Mass., in 1636, and at Newport, R. I. in 1646, is the ancestor of the West family whose descendants lived in Stonington and neighbouring towns.

Gen. 5.

JAMES FITCH MASON, 2d.,

m. 10 Dec., 1789, Nancy, b. 26 May, 1766, dau. of Joseph Fitch, Esquire, of Montville, and Sarah Gardner.

Mr. Mason was an extensive land holder, and inherited a large estate from his father.

He resided at Lebanon, where he died 7 May, 1835.

His wife d. 10 June, 1832.

HAD ISSUE:

ELIZABETH FITCH, b. 10 Oct., 1790; m. 12 Sept., 1812, Judge Elisha Waterman of Lebanon.

NANCY FITCH, b. 10 Nov., 1792; d. 4 Sept., 1850.

JEREMIAH, b. 4 Mar., 1795; d. 7 May, 1886, unm. He was one of the largest and most successful farmers in Lebanon. He was much esteemed among his friends and neighbours for his kindly disposition and consistent character, and his judgment and advice were of influence in public affairs, and often sought with confidence in private matters.

JAMES FITCH, b. 1 May, 1797; d. 25 May, 1836; graduate of Yale College in 1817.

SARAH, b. 27 Apl., 1800; d. 9 Apl., 1866.

ALFRED, b. 20 Jany., 1803; d. 13 Oct., 1862.

WILLIAM, b. 20 Dec., 1805; d. 28 May, 1840.

EDWARD, b. 16 Dec., 1808.

Gen. 5.

HON. JEREMIAH MASON, LL.D., M.C.,

m. 6 Nov., 1799, Mary, b. 20 Oct., 1777, dau. of Colonel Robert Means of Amherst, New Hampshire, and Mary, dau. of Rev. David McGregor of Londonderry, N. H.

He graduated at Yale in 1788. After devoting several years to the study of the law in the office of the Hon. Stephen Rowe Bradley of Vermont, he was called to the bar in that state in 1791. Mr. Mason removed to Portsmouth, N. H. in 1797. His practice soon became extensive. He was recognized as the head of his profession in New Hampshire whose bar was then unequalled in this

country. He was Attorney General for the state in 1802, and was elected to the United States Senate in 1813. He was one of the foremost debaters in that body, his speech delivered in 1814 on the Embargo being especially powerful. But he was before everything else a great lawyer. He soon tired of politics, and in 1817 resigned his seat in the Senate to resume the practice of his profession. He afterwards served for a number of terms in the New Hampshire Legislature, where his time was given largely to revising and codifying the state laws. It was he who framed for the Legislature its report on the Virginia Resolutions with regard to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the state enjoyed in many other directions the benefit of his legal learning and sagacity. In 1832 he removed to Boston. There he was retained in many great cases, and maintained, until his age compelled him to retire, the high repute he had won elsewhere. His was one of the most acute legal minds in America, and Robert C. Winthrop speaks of him as being "generally regarded as the greatest lawyer of his day in New England."

Webster, who had abundant occasion to conceive a respect for Mason's abilities while they were both engaged in the trial of cases at the New Hampshire bar, does not exaggerate in giving his estimate of him in the eulogy pronounced before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in Boston, he says: "Of my own professional discipline and attainments, whatever they may be, I owe much to that close attention to the discharge of my duties, which I was compelled to pay for nine successive years, from day to day, by Mr. Mason's efforts and arguments at the same bar"; and he adds, "The characteristics of his mind, as I think, were real greatness, strength, and sagacity. He was great through strong sense and sound judgment"; and further in his tribute to Mason that, "his career was marked by uniform greatness, wisdom and integrity."

Rufus Choate in his address moving the resolutions unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Suffolk County bar, said of him, "in a profound knowledge of jurisprudence, far reaching discernment and sound judgment, and in some of the most choice qualities of a forensic speaker he had in this whole country few equals, and probably no superior," and that "his powers of mind were

not only so vast, but so peculiar; his character and influence were so weighty, as well as good; he filled for so many years so conspicuous a place in the profession of the law, in public life, and in intercourse with those who gave immediate direction to public affairs, that it appears most fit that we should attempt to record somewhat permanently and completely our appreciation of him"; and "of whom it may be said that, without ever holding a judicial station, he was the author and finisher of the jurisprudence of a state; one whose intellect, wisdom and uprightness gave him a control over the opinions of all the circles in which he lived and acted, of which we shall scarcely see another example, and for which this generation and the country are the better to-day."

Referring to Mason's presentation of certain questions, Mr. Justice Story said: "His expositions of Constitutional Law are a monument of fame far beyond the memorials of political and military glory."

He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Harvard, Dartmouth, and Bowdoin Colleges.

He d. 14 Oct., 1848, and was buried in Mount Auburn.

His wife d. 10 Apl., 1858.

HAD ISSUE:

GEORGE MEANS, b. 3 Oct., 1800; d. 16 Aug., 1865, unm.

MARY ELIZABETH, b. 18 May, 1802; d. 29 Apl., 1859.

ALFRED, b. 24 Mar., 1804; d. 12 Apl., 1828, unm.

JAMES JEREMIAH, b. 13 June, 1806.

JANE, b. 17 Aug., 1808; d. 25 Mar., 1890.

ROBERT MEANS, b. 25 Sept., 1810.

CHARLES, b. 25 July, 1812.

MARIANNE, b. 20 Feby., 1815; m. 5 June, 1838, Royall Altamont Crafts of New Orleans. He d. 25 May, 1864. James Mason Crafts, an eminent chemist, with many foreign decorations, formerly president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is their son. She afterwards m. in 1871, Commodore Francis B. Ellison, U. S. N., an accomplished officer, and commissioned as commodore in July, 1862, during the Civil War. She d. 21 Jany., 1897.

Colonel Means, Mrs. Mason's father, a wealthy and influential resident of Amherst, N. H., was one of the most widely known and distinguished merchants in the state. He was a representative in the General Court, also served in the senate, and was a member of the executive council. His dau., Mrs. Nancy Means Ellis, became the second wife of Hon. Amos Lawrence of Boston.

Gen. 5.

DANIEL MASON,

m. 28 Mar., 1798, Eunice, b. 14 Jany., 1769, dau. of Captain William Huntington of Lebanon, and Bethia, dau. of Captain Dan Throop and Susanna Cary. He resided in Lebanon, where he died 26 Mar., 1828.

His wife died 22 Mar., 1857.

HAD ISSUE:

BETHIA HUNTINGTON, b. 8 Mar., 1800; m. 11 Mar., 1824, John Wattle.

EUNICE ELIZABETH, b. 4 Mar., 1801; m. 19 Sept., 1832, Joseph Ambler.

MARY LYON, b. 28 June, 1802; m. 23 Apl., 1834, Charles Hubbard Dutton, M.D. He graduated at medical department of Yale College in 1826. He practiced his profession until ill health compelled a change of climate, when he went to Charleston, S. C., where he died 30 Mar., 1836.

RHODA LOUISA, b. 18 Mar., 1804; m. 25 Oct., 1842, Rev. Nathan Strong Hunt, A.M. He was a graduate of Williams College in 1830, and of Andover Seminary in 1833. His worth and usefulness as a good preacher and faithful pastor were well known.

JULIA ANN, b. 10 Oct., 1805; d. 26 Oct., 1896.

WEALTHY FITCH, b. 10 Mar., 1807; d. 25 Dec., 1830.

JOHN GRISWOLD HILLHOUSE, b. 8 Aug., 1808; d. 28 July, 1829, unm.

ABBY JANE, b. 28 Dec., 1811; d. 25 Sept., 1886.

Captain William Huntington was a graduate of Yale College in 1754. He was a man of note and influence in Lebanon, where he died 31 May, 1816.

The Huntington family, from the earliest records of the colonial period of Connecticut, have always occupied a prominent part in the civil and social movements of the day. They are a numerous and widely spread posterity, many with names distinguished in the professions and business interests not only of this continent, but extensively associated with affairs of similar import in the old country.

Gen. 5.

DANIEL MASON, ESQUIRE,

m. 1791, Deborah, b. 1770, dau. of Simon Lathrop, Esquire, of Ontario County, New York, and Hannah Davis.

He resided on the property in Hartford, New York, where he was highly respected in all his public and social relations, and filled many important positions with fidelity and ability.

He was chosen Moderator at the first meeting of electors, in Apl., 1794, and was the first supervisor of the town elected to that office.

He died the 2 May, 1812, in the forty-fifth year of his age, and was there interred.

His wife died in 1817.

HAD ISSUE:

DANIEL, b. 1793; d. May, 1878, in Hartford, unm.

DAVID LATHROP, b. 7 May, 1799.

The Lathrops are descended from the Lothropps of Lowthorpe, in the East Riding of York, about N. E. from Great Driffeld.

The ancestor in this country was the Rev. John Lathrop or Lothrop, who was born 20 Dec., 1584 in Etton, Yorkshire.

He was a graduate of Queens College, Cambridge, taking his M.A. in 1609, and in 1611 was curate of St. James church parish, in Egerton, Kent, 48 miles from London. He became minister of the first Congregational church organized in England, in London City, and when that was suppressed, and he had been imprisoned for some time, he came over in 1634 to New England, where he was minister of the church in Scituate, Mass., and afterwards in Barnstable.

Gen. 5.

DAVID MASON,

m. 4 Nov., 1801, Mary Elizabeth, b. 4 Aug., 1780, dau. of Rev. Isaac Lewis, D.D. of Greenwich, Fairfield County, Conn., and Hannah, dau. of Matthew Beale, Esquire, an English gentleman.

He graduated at Williams College, Mass., 7 Sept., 1796, and received his degree of M.A. in course, the 4 Sept., 1799, having in the meantime read law under the direction of Senator Sedgwick and been called to the bar. He was prominent in his college relations. He was a commencement orator at the graduation of his class, and was selected to deliver the Master's Address at the conferring the degree of M.A. by President Fitch.

He was a man of cultivated tastes and social nature, with a charm of manner that rendered him most agreeable to meet, and closely attached those with whom he was brought into intimate intercourse. He had a most felicitous address, and the art of expressing himself in language that was remarked for its clear and polished diction.

A lawyer of ability he was well read in the principles and practice of the law, and acute and logical in its application and presentation. As an advocate he had especial influence. He was frequently retained to represent corporate as well as private interests in the highest courts of the State.

Though devoted to the interests of his profession, he gave some attention to the politics of the day, being pronounced in his support of the principles and policy of the Federalist party, and at times taking part in presenting its claims in written articles and otherwise, with terse, forceful argument, that always attracted attention and received consideration.

He resided for some years in Cooperstown, where he was engaged in practice with Mr. William Cooper, the son of Judge Cooper, and an elder brother of James Fenimore Cooper.

He removed to Montgomery, Orange County, in 1806.

The latter part of his life he suffered much in health, and died suddenly 11 Oct., 1821. His remains were interred in the old Walkill churchyard.

His wife died 6 Oct., 1867, in Greenwich, where she had resided since his death, and was there buried.

His tombstone was then set up in the private graveyard in Greenwich.

HAD ISSUE:

THEODORE LEWIS, b. 30 Sept., 1803, in Cooperstown.

JOHN WEST, b. 3 July, 1805, in Cooperstown.

MARY ELIZABETH, b. 13 Feby., 1808, in Montgomery; d. 26 Apl., 1833, at Greenwich.

Rev. Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Mason's father, was born in Ripton Parish, Stratford, whither his great-grandfather, by profession an architect, and who designed the old Congregational church in Fairfield, the first English church in the city of New York, and several others in this country, had come from England in 1675. He graduated at Yale College in 1765, studied theology, and was ordained in Mar., 1768. After preaching in Wilton for some years, he was instituted minister of the Congregational church in Greenwich in October, 1786, continuing in charge of that parish for more than thirty years, when increasing age led him to resign its care. He resided there until his death, 27 Aug., 1840, in his ninety-fifth year. He was of commanding presence, six feet in height, well proportioned, a strong man physically, mentally and morally. His influence in the community was most extended, and he was highly respected by all classes and greatly venerated in his old age. He was distinguished among his compeers for his learning and executive ability, and esteemed for his liberality of disposition and uprightness of life. A circumstance which indicates his high standing in literary circles is that the corporation of Yale College in considering a successor to Doctor Stiles in the presidency in 1795, determined in their choice upon either Dr. Lewis or Dr. Timothy Dwight. At the final election by the Fellows Dr. Dwight received one more vote than Dr. Lewis, upon which Dr. Lewis moved to make the choice unanimous, which was done. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Yale College in 1792, and in 1816 he was made a Fellow of the Corporation. He was chaplain to the regiment of Colonel Philip B. Bradley while stationed at Bergen during the Revolution, but after seven months of service, from May to December, 1776, was

brought so low with camp fever that he was not expected to recover, and resigned his commission.

Gen. 6.

EDWARD MASON,

m. 22 Jany., 1833, Phylura O., b. 4 Jany., 1814, dau. of Edmund Stiles of Lebanon, and Wealthy, dau. of Col. Josiah Loomis.

He d. 30 Mar., 1847, in Franklin, and was there buried. His wife m. again, and d. 13 Oct., 1860, in Lebanon.

HAD ISSUE:

JAMES FITCH, b. 22 Dec., 1833.

NANCY FITCH, b. 20 Aug., 1835.

GEORGE EDWARD, b. 10 Mar., 1838; d. 10 Apl., 1842.

WILLIAM ALFRED, b. 4 Sept., 1842; d. 2 May, 1862, in the Civil War, at Newberne, N. C.; a member of the 8th Reg. Conn. Vol. In.

JEREMIAH, b. 20 Oct., 1845; d. 20 Feby., 1846.

Gen. 6.

JAMES JEREMIAH MASON,

m. 22 Jany., 1835, Elizabeth Frances, dau. of Hon. Israel Thordike, of Boston, and Sally, dau. of Harrison Gray Otis.

He was born in Portsmouth, N. H. He attended the Exeter Academy, completing the usual course at that institution. He then entered the counting-room of Messrs. James W. Page & Co. of Boston. On attaining his majority, he engaged in business on his own account, but soon had advantageous offers to go into the commission business in New York City. His residence there, however, was short. The eminent house in which he commenced his career, had received impressions so favourable to his ability and capacity in his business relations, that they soon sent for him to return and become a partner with them; in which connection he remained active until the time of his death. He had the confidence of older men to a remarkable degree.

He d. 13 June, 1835, a few months after his marriage, without issue.

His widow afterwards m. Theodore Oelrichs of Bremen, Germany.

Israel Thorndike, Jr., b. in Dec., 1785, was the son of Colonel Israel Thorndike of Beverly, Mass. He was member of a number of the prominent societies and clubs, and in the later years of his life, a resident of New York City where he died in Mar., 1867. His father was one of the most noted merchants of New England and accumulated, chiefly in the East India and China trade, a large property; was a member of the convention called for the adoption of the Constitution of the United States—and was very liberal in his gifts to Harvard.

Mr. John Thorndike of Beverly, the first of the family in New England came to Boston about 1632. He was fifth in descent from William Thorndike, lord of the Manor of Carlton, Lincolnshire. He went to England in 1688 intending to return, but died in London in 1690, and was buried in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. His brother, Rev. Herbert Thorndike, Prebendary of Westminster, was one of the most profound and distinguished scholars in England during his life. Paul, his only son, born in 1662, married and settled at Beverly. In every generation from the time of their ancestor, they have held positions of importance and prominence.

Gen. 6.

ROBERT MEANS MASON,

m. 4 Dec., 1843, Sarah Ellen, b. 17 May, 1819, dau. of Ebenezer Francis of Boston, and Elizabeth, dau. of Israel Thorndike of Beverly, Mass.

He was educated at the Portsmouth Academy and the Gardiner Lyceum in Maine. Deciding that his vocation was for mercantile rather than for professional life, in 1827 he entered the office of his brother James in Boston. Thence he went to Philadelphia, and in 1831 he removed to New York City. Retiring from the firm of Stone, Swan & Mason, he formed the co-partnership of Otis & Mason and was actively engaged until 1841, when the connection was dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Mason continuing the business by himself.

In 1843 with his friend and connection Amos A. Lawrence, he founded the house of Mason & Lawrence of Boston, afterwards widely and favorably known throughout the country, and thus established himself in that city, which had become since 1832 the family home.

He was not a demonstrative person, and though no one could be more cordial to his intimates, he had a natural reserve of manner to the outer world. Yet such was his reputation for scrupulous integrity combined with singularly sound and accurate judgment, that few men were oftener applied to for advice in matters of moment, and the opinion of few men have better stood the test of time.

A man of the most exact and methodical habits, he had a great dislike of extravagance and waste, and enjoyed setting an example of simplicity of daily life in town and country so far as could be made consistent with a large establishment and an overflowing hospitality.

He was a thorough American. All his life long he had loved his whole country—New England the best—but with forbearance and good will for other sections. No one however, was more ardent in the cause of maintaining an undivided republic, and restoring the authority of the Federal Government over the seceding States.

So far as in him lay he did his best to correct the false impression prevailing in Europe as to the nature of the contest, and he had an interesting correspondence with the French statesman Montalambert, an English translation of whose pamphlet "*La Victoire du Nord aux États Unis*" was circulated at Mr. Mason's expense.

He was to his friend Charles Francis Adams, one of the most effective aids in the Trent affair, the opportunity for which influence his wealth and the foreign connections of his wife's family enabled him to exercise. There was no personal or pecuniary sacrifice he would not have made to maintain the Union, but while according a general support to the administration, and making every allowance for the difficulties which beset it, he was far from yielding an unthinking assent to every feature of its policy. He became treasurer of the Massachusetts Soldiers'

Fund, to which, as well as to the various other funds, he was one of the earliest and largest contributors, and learning that the government was unprepared to meet the pressing demand for hospital accommodation, he placed his former home in Pemberton Square at the disposal of the authorities. In the course of the three following years more than seventeen hundred invalid soldiers were received and cared for in this mansion, Mr. Mason declining to accept any compensation save the thanks of the War Department conveyed in a very complimentary letter from the Surgeon-General.

In the management of his own property, and that of many important trusts, he exhibited the same untiring industry, mature deliberation, wise counsel, and prudent action.

He was a director of the State Bank, President of the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company and a director of the Cochecho Company.

He was a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Massachusetts, a delegate of the Diocese to the General Convention of the Church, and was chairman and treasurer of the Finance Committee when that Convention met in Boston.

He was a director of the Church Home for Orphans and Destitute Children, an institution founded by his brother Charles, and liberally remembered in his will.

He was a visitor of the Theological School at Cambridge, and for many years senior warden of St. Paul's church, Boston.

His wife d. 27 Sept., 1865, at Dieppe in France.

He d. 13 Mar., 1879, in Savannah, Ga., and was buried in Mount Auburn, Cambridge, Mass.

The funeral services, attended by a large assemblage including the venerable Bishop of New York, Dr. Potter, took place in St. John's Chapel, Cambridge.

This chapel, one of the buildings of the Episcopal Theological School, he had built in 1869 as a memorial to his wife and brother Charles. The same has become the subject of some verses by Longfellow.

On the Sunday after Mr. Mason's death, Bishop Paddock towards the close of an impressive sermon at St. Paul's, spoke of "the profound sense of loss which this Church, the Clergy of the

City, and the Diocese in its charities and missions, and many good causes elsewhere felt in the sudden departure of a man of so eminent characteristics."

The memoir prepared by Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., upon a resolution of the Massachusetts Historical Society gives further an extended review of his life.

HAD ISSUE:

ELIZABETH, b. 1 Oct., 1844; m. 1 June, 1869, Robert Charles Winthrop, Jr., son of Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, LL.D. He was a descendant of the distinguished John Winthrop, whose address and influence at the court of Charles II. obtained for the Colony of Connecticut the Royal Charter of 1662, in which he is named the Governor, and Major John Mason Deputy-Governor. He graduated at Harvard in 1854, and was in attendance at the Law School until 1856, when he entered the office of Leverett Saltonstall, Esquire. He was admitted a member of the Suffolk bar in 1857, but never practiced. The early years of his life were passed chiefly in European travel. To literary interests he at intervals devoted close attention, and the re-arrangement of the large and valuable collection of Colonial Mss. known as the Winthrop Papers, occupied much of his time at different periods. Aside from the assistance he constantly rendered his father in his numerous undertakings, he prepared and had printed papers on different subjects, besides several memoirs of prominent members of his own family, or those connected with it. He was an active member of the Massachusetts Historical Society of which both his father and grandfather had been presidents. He was for many years a trustee of the Boston Athenæum. He had become a member of the Somerset Club immediately after graduation, and also was a member of the famous "Wednesday Evening Club of 1777." He d. in Boston, 5 June, 1905, the funeral taking place from St. John's Memorial chapel at Cambridge. They had three children,—two daughters, and one son, Robert Mason Winthrop, who is connected with the United States legation in Rome. A memoir prepared by Charles

Francis Adams for the Massachusetts Historical Society, was reprinted for private distribution. Mr. Winthrop m. in 1857, for his first wife, Miss Frances Adams, who d. s. p. about two years and a half after their marriage.

ELLEN FRANCIS, b. 24 June, 1846.

ALFRED, b. 15 Mar., 1850; d. 12 Feby., 1852.

ANNA FRANCIS, b. 18 Jany., 1852; d. 2 Nov., 1860.

CLARA THORNDIKE, b. 26 Feby., 1854; d. 23 Sept., 1868.

IDA MEANS, b. 6 Jany., 1856.

Ebenezer Francis was a leading merchant of Boston, and a man of large property. He was the son of Colonel Francis of Beverly, an enterprising and valued citizen of that place, who fell at the head of his regiment in one of the early actions of the Revolutionary war, near Whitehall, New York, and "who united in himself the qualities of a brave and accomplished officer, and an ardent patriot." Mr. Francis' education had been limited to the ordinary branches taught in the common school of that day, and in 1787, when only eleven years of age, he went to Boston and entered the counting-room of a prominent merchant, where he rapidly qualified himself to enter business on his own account, which he did before the age of twenty-one. He was calm and deliberate in judgment, bold and decided in action, and singularly indifferent to public opinion after making up his mind according to the dictates of his conscience. But he was remarkably courteous in manner, mild and affable in deportment, and always the gentleman in the best and highest sense of that word. For some years he was treasurer of Harvard College, and in many ways took an active interest in the affairs of the university. While commercial organizations occupied so large a share of his attention, he did not forget those of a philanthropic nature, and was influential in his administration of the different offices he at times occupied in connection with some of the best endowed charitable institutions in New England. He was a Unitarian, though far from being narrow and sectarian in his feelings. He d. 21 Sept., 1858, in the eighty-third year of his age.

Gen. 6.

REV. CHARLES MASON, D.D.,

m. 15 June, 1838, Susannah, b. 23 May, 1817, dau. of Hon. Amos Lawrence of Boston, and Sarah, dau. of Giles Richards of Dedham.

He graduated at Harvard University in 1832, studied at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, and was received into the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church in July, 1836. He was instituted rector of St. Peter's church, Salem, Mass., in May 1837, continuing in care of that parish for ten years, when removing to Boston he became rector of Grace church, Temple St., in Sept., 1847, where he remained until his death.

He was a man of a strong and well cultivated mind, was an earnest and able preacher, of uncommon excellence and generosity of disposition, exemplary in all the relations of life, and died distinguished alike by private affection and public regard.

In the memoir of the Rev. Dr. Mason prepared by his friend and former instructor, Rev. A. P. Peabody, D. D., and quoted by George S. Hillard in his memoir of Hon. Jeremiah Mason, he says, "The most delicate courtesy governed him in all the relations of life. His mental action was distinguished by precision, justice, and accuracy. Neither emotion, prejudice, nor enthusiasm suppressed or distorted the judicial faculty.

"Thoroughly a Churchman by conviction, taste, and sympathy, he was still more profoundly a Christian; and while he never swerved from loyalty to his own Church, his relations with clergymen and Christians of other communions were cordial and intimate."

Robert C. Winthrop speaks of him as "one of the most eminent and useful of the Clergy of the Diocese."

The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Harvard University in 1858, and he received the like degree from Trinity College, Hartford, the same year.

A mural tablet at the chancel in St. Peter's church, Salem, reads as follows:

IN MEMORIAM
 THE REVEREND
 CHARLES MASON, S.T.D.
 THE FAITHFUL PRIEST, THE LEARNED SCHOLAR,
 THE STEADFAST FRIEND, THE CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.
 BORN AT PORTSMOUTH, N. H., 25 JULY, 1812.
 GRADUATE HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 1832,
 RECTOR OF THIS PARISH
 FROM 1ST MAY, 1837 TO 1ST MAY, 1847
 RECTOR OF GRACE CHURCH, BOSTON, MASS.,
 FROM 3D SEPT., 1847, TO THE TIME OF HIS DEATH
 23D MARCH, 1862.

“BE YE THEREFORE READY ALSO; FOR THE SON OF MAN
 COMETH AT AN HOUR WHEN YE THINK NOT.”

ERECTED BY HIS LOVING PARISHIONERS
 A. D. 1864.

HAD ISSUE:

SUSAN LAWRENCE, b. 25 Aug., 1839; m. 17 July, 1866. Fitch Edward Oliver, M.D., son of Dr. Daniel Oliver, a member of the faculty of Dartmouth College, and lecturer in the medical school of that institution.

He was a graduate of Dartmouth in 1839, and received the degree of M.D. at the Harvard Medical School in 1843, where he afterwards (1860-70) was an instructor in *Materia Medica*. He devoted more than a year to study and travel in Europe before beginning the practice of medicine in Boston in the autumn of 1844. The degree of M.A. was conferred upon him by Trinity College, Hartford, in 1860. He was prominent in connection with many of the notable medical institutions and organizations of Boston, and in addition to his professional work devoted considerable time to literary pursuits. He was a member of the corporation of the Church of the Advent for forty-five years, and was its senior warden

at the time of his death. He died 8 Dec., 1892. They had six children, two daus. and four sons.

AMOS LAWRENCE, b. 20 Apl., 1842.

MARY, b. 22 Nov., 1844; m. 6 Jany., 1870, Captain Howard Stockton, U. S. A., son of Lieutenant Philip Augustus Stockton, U. S. N., and for a time Consul-General to Saxony. He was a graduate of the Royal Saxon Polytechnic, Dresden. He was in active duty, Ordnance Corps, U. S. A. until 1867. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1871. Since then he has held high official positions in connection with a number of wealthy business concerns, and acts as trustee for many large estates. He is a vestryman of St. Paul's church and active in diocesan interests. Mrs. Stockton d. 27 July, 1886. They had four daus. and three sons.

SARAH, b. 22 Nov., 1844; m. 15 Oct., 1868, Hasket Derby, M.D., son of Elias Hasket Derby, who studied law with Daniel Webster, and later became eminent as a railroad lawyer.

He graduated at Amherst College in 1855, and took the degree of M.D. at Harvard in 1858, after which he spent three or more years abroad in study. He has long been well known as one of the foremost oculists, and was at one time lecturer on Ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School. He has written numerous articles in the periodicals devoted to the subject, and is the author of leading publications. He is a member of various medical organizations at home and abroad. They have had eight children —one a dau.

His wife died 2 Dec., 1844.

Mr. Lawrence was a wealthy merchant whose business operations were conducted with great success, and aided largely in the establishment of manufactures in New England. He and his brother were heavily interested in the manufacturing corporations in the town of Lawrence, which was named in their honour. His naturally benevolent disposition led him to devote much time and attention to charitable purposes, and he was a liberal benefactor of Williams College, Kenyon College, the Academy at Groton, and the Theological Seminary at Bangor, Maine. His private benefactions were almost innumerable.

Hon. Abbott Lawrence, LL.D., his brother, was Minister to England for several years, where he entertained in London with much splendor, and received the most flattering attentions. He founded and endowed at Harvard University a scientific department, called in his honour the Lawrence Scientific School.

Right Rev. William Lawrence, D.D., Bishop of Massachusetts, and before then Dean of the Cambridge Episcopal Theological School, is his grandson.

The ancestor of the family in this country was John Lawrence born in Wisset, Suffolkshire, England, a lineal descendant of Sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall, Lancashire. He came to New England, a young man, about 1630, and lived in Watertown, Mass., from whence he removed to Groton, where he d. in July, 1661.

Rev. Dr. Mason m. for his second wife, 9 Aug., 1849, Anna Huntington, b. 15 Dec., 1821, dau. of Hon. Jonathan Huntington Lyman of Northampton, Mass., and Sophia, dau. of Judge Samuel Hinckley.

HAD ISSUE:

ANNA SOPHIA LYMAN, b. 4 Oct., 1853; m. 4 June, 1873, John Chipman Gray, son of Horace Gray and Sarah Russell Gardner. Rev. Phillips Brooks performed the ceremony. He graduated at Harvard in 1859, and from the Law School in 1861. He is a prominent member of the Boston bar. He has been Story Professor of Law in the Harvard Law School since 1875, and Royall Professor of Law since 1883. His grandfather was William Gray, a well known and wealthy Boston merchant, a state senator and lieutenant-governor in 1810. Judge Horace Gray of the Supreme Court of the United States was a brother.

The family name has been associated with many of the most progressive movements in the City, as the establishing the beautiful Public Gardens of Boston; and Gray's Hall at Harvard is named for Francis Colley Gray noted for his bequests to the college. They have two children, one dau. and one son.

CHARLES JEREMIAH, b. 25 Sept., 1855.

HARRIETTE SARGENT, b. 2 May, 1858; m. 20 Sept., 1905, William Barbour Rodman of Lexington, Kentucky. He is the head of the Alaska Commercial Company at Tanana, Alaska.

His wife died 21 June, 1883.

Mr. Lyman, one of the most successful practitioners of the bar in his day, was highly distinguished in his profession of the law. At the time of his early death he was Chief Justice of the Court of Sessions, and had been a state senator and representative. He was born in 1783, the son of Rev. Joseph Lyman, D.D., of Hatfield, Mass., and Hannah Huntington. His father was one of the best known and most influential of the Congregational clergy in New England.

He was a graduate of Yale College in 1802. He lived in Northampton, where he died in 1825. He was a descendant of Richard Lyman, one of the original proprietors of Hartford, who came from England in November, 1631, through his son Richard who d. in Northampton, Mass., in 1662.

The Lymans were descended from an old Saxon family, inheritors of large estates, prior to William the Conqueror, being lineally descended from Thomas Lyman of High Ongar, Navestock, Essex, who married Elizabeth, a great heiress, dau. of Sir Odelphus Lambert, grandson of Lambert, Count of Loraine and Mons, a kinsman of the Conqueror. The Lyman estates were confiscated by King Harold when he usurped the throne, but some of the same were afterwards, through this influence, restored by order of William.

Gen. 6.

DAVID LATHROP MASON,

m. 27 Oct., 1827, Asenath Slocum, b. 21 Feby., 1805, dau. of Major Joseph Taylor of Hartford, Washington County, New York, and Lydia, dau. of Levi Adams.

He resided in Binghamton, N. Y. where he was engaged in business interests for many years, and there d. the 26th June, 1839.

HAD ISSUE:

DANIEL DAVID, b. 26 Aug., 1829; d. 21 May, 1853, unm.

JOSEPH TAYLOR, b. 29 Jany., 1835.

LYDIA ASENATH, b. 26 Aug., 1837; m. 26 June, 1861, Burdsall J. Lewis; he d. in Oct., 1867. She afterwards m. 19 May, 1885, Judge Lyman Hall Northup.

His widow m. in 1843, Cary Baker. She d. 3 June, 1878.

Major Taylor resided in Hartford, and owned several tracts of farm and timberland in Washington County which he managed. He was prominent in public affairs, being held in much esteem by his neighbours for exceptional executive ability. He was looked upon as a wealthy and influential man. He was tall and large, of fine physique, with a strong personality, and had a full and very flexible voice which had great carrying power when used. He was 2nd Major in Lieutenant-Colonel James Green's regiment. His commission dated 11 Feby., 1811, is signed by Governor Tompkins, whose respect and intimate acquaintance he enjoyed. His regiment was engaged in the battle of Plattsburg, where the American troops, under General Macomb, defeated the English forces, while at the same time the British squadron on Lake Champlain was compelled to surrender by Commodore Macdonough, the two battles being fought simultaneously, in sight of each other. He was b. 5 Apl., 1767, in Concord, Mass., and d. in Hartford, New York, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

Gen. 6.

THEODORE LEWIS MASON, M. D.,

m. 26 Dec., 1833, Katharine Van Vliet, b. 26 Dec., 1814, dau. of Peter DeWitt of New York City, and Janet, dau. of George Gosman.

He received a thorough English and classical education, and then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, registering his name as student of medicine in the office of the celebrated Dr. David Hosack. His degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on the 29th Mar., 1825.

He practiced for a few years in Wilton, Conn., and for a short time remained in New York, but in 1834 removed to Brooklyn as his permanent home, in which city he was a practicing physician and surgeon for nearly fifty years, and for more than a generation distinguished in his profession. His name is associated with the organizations that have given character to the city, and his marked executive ability was, to a large extent, the reason of their being and the life of their development. He had a keen intellect, a ready discernment, and sound judgment; prompt of decision where action was required in any of the relations of life, his energy and resource were unflinching. The dignity of manner which marked his intercourse in the varying interests of his position, and the courtesy and cheerfulness of disposition which always influenced him, commanded the respect and regard of all.

He was especially qualified for the performance of surgical operations, and although he successfully pursued both a medical and surgical practice, his skill and ability more frequently expressed themselves in the latter branch of his profession.

He became a member of the Kings County Medical Society, and was twice elected President, for the years 1842 and 1843.

He was influential in framing the charter of the Brooklyn City Hospital founded in 1845, and in the selection of its board of directors of which he was President, and of the medical staff, and as Senior Consulting Surgeon was active in its service until his health compelled him to tender his resignation.

In 1858 several leading physicians of Brooklyn, including Dr. Mason, devised the plan of establishing there a medical school with the advantages of a hospital in connection. It resulted in the organization of the Long Island College Hospital, the first medical school in the United States to make practical and successful use of this principle. He was not only actively engaged in perfecting the plan of organization, and in devising and executing the preliminary details, but his useful counsel and firm determination were of invaluable assistance in the prosecution of the design. He was one of the incorporators, and was chosen by his colleagues the first President of the Collegiate Department, continuing such until a year before his death, a period of twenty-one years.

During the Civil War he was extremely active in directing the care of the sick and wounded men of the army and navy sent from the front to the Long Island College Hospital for medical treatment, and almost daily gave his personal attention to this patriotic work, evincing in his treatment of these defenders of their country his entire and warm sympathy with the cause for which they suffered.

He was early identified with those interested in promoting a reform in the then defective sanitary regulations of the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and in 1864 by special request accompanied a committee of "The Citizens' Association of New York" to Albany as one of the medical members to urge upon the Legislature the passage of a metropolitan health bill. It numbered among its members the most influential citizens and members of the medical profession in New York City.

On the enactment of the measure, and the appointment of a Metropolitan Board of Health for the district comprising the three counties, Dr. Mason was nominated by a large number of the most prominent and respectable medical, professional, and mercantile residents of the city, for Health Commissioner of Brooklyn. He accepted the nomination, but finding the contest for the appointment was assuming a purely political aspect he withdrew, not wishing to engage in a competition of that nature.

He was one of the incorporators, and the first President of the Inebriates' Home for Kings County established in May, 1866. As consulting physician he was most active and efficient in the organization and oversight of this institution.

He was one of the founders in 1870 of the American Association for the Cure of Inebriates, and in 1875 was chosen President, retaining the position for several successive years.

He frequently prepared papers upon this subject in its various aspects, and one of his addresses entitled "Inebriety a Disease" was afterwards published and extensively noticed abroad as well as in this country, being quoted as authority in the British House of Commons in arguments urging the establishment of inebriate homes in Great Britain, and exerted no small influence on the Continent among those who were giving thought to the cure of intemperance.

He was a permanent member of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and his name is conspicuous in many important measures connected with the society.

He was also a member of the American Medical Association, and a Resident Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

He was a delegate to the International Medical Convention held in Philadelphia in 1876.

He was one of the incorporators, a life member, and a director of the Long Island Historical Society.

In 1874 he was elected one of the vice-presidents of the American Colonization Society of which he had been a member for some years.

For a few years Dr. Mason attended the Henry street Presbyterian church, Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Cox, but his early life having been closely associated with the worship of the Congregational Church, his preferences were strongly inclined thereto, and when it was determined by a number of those of similar views to establish such a church in the city of Brooklyn, he was made chairman of the committee that organized the Church of the Pilgrims in 1844, in which position he was most energetic and efficient in influencing the Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs to become its minister.

The latter part of his life he was a member of the Reformed Dutch Church, and prominently identified with its interests.

A memoir prepared by Alfred De W. Mason was printed for private distribution.

His wife d. 11 June, 1859. He d. 12 Feby., 1882, and was buried in the private graveyard in Greenwich, Conn.

HAD ISSUE:

MARY ELIZABETH, b. 26 Oct., 1834; d. 27 Jany., 1842.

JANET DUNCAN, b. 23 Jany., 1836; d. 7 Jany., 1842.

PETER DEWITT, b. 27 Oct., 1837; d. 31 Dec., 1841.

KATHARINE, b. 22 Sept., 1839; d. 3 Feby., 1842.

THEODORE WEST, b. 9 Mar., 1841.

LEWIS DUNCAN, b. 21 Jun., 1843.

EDWARD DEWITT, b. 7 July, 1845; d. 26 Feby., 1900, unm.

He graduated at the University of the City of New York

in 1864, and afterward was engaged in business for some years in New York City and in Buffalo, N. Y. He was of exact and methodical habits, which qualities he exhibited both in his private affairs and in the management of important financial trusts which he was called upon from time to time to administer. He was a member of the Hamilton Club of Brooklyn, of Altair Lodge No. 601, F. and A. M. and of several similar organizations. He belonged to the Reformed Dutch Church and was connected with the Young Men's Christian Association of his native city.

ELIZABETH DUNCAN, b. 9 Jan'y., 1847; m. 13 Dec., 1865, Clarence Alexander Blake, son of Alexander V. Blake of Brooklyn, and Elizabeth Matilda Everingham. He was educated at the Polytechnic in Brooklyn. A short while after leaving the Institute when a company of recruits for the Seventh regiment of New York was formed and sent in May of 1861 to Washington, he enlisted and went with them. Upon the return of the regiment he remained, acting as quarter-master assistant under Captain Robert O. Tyler, U. S. A. He came back in the autumn of 1861, taking service as lieutenant in the 103d New York Volunteers, which regiment very soon joined the army. He was with the regiment but a few months when he was appointed an aide-de-camp on the staff of Brigadier-General Nagle, with the rank of captain, on which service he continued for about a year, receiving honourable discharge in the winter of 1863 for reasons of health. He was in all the severe engagements around Washington, and active on staff duty from Newberne until the brigade was again stationed near Harpers Ferry. His name, Captain Clarence A. Blake, appears on the roll of honor of the Seventh regiment, N. G. S. N. Y. of members who served during the war for the Union. For some time he was connected, in the New York office, with the concern of his uncle, George F. Tyler of Philadelphia. He eventually conducted business on his own account for a number of years in several connections. He was b. 12 May, 1842, and d. 16 Apl., 1887. She has four children, one dau. and three sons.

JOHN, b. 1849; d. in infancy.

SARAH, b. 20 July, 1851; d. in infancy.

ALFRED DEWITT, b. 21 Mar., 1855.

Peter DeWitt was a prominent lawyer in New York City, practicing there from 1804 until the year of his death 1851. He was son of John DeWitt and Katharine Van Vliet of Dutchess County, New York. He was especially noted for the success with which he conducted intricate questions in real estate interests, and his opinion in such matters was often sought as final in determining many of the largest and most far reaching transactions of the day. His reputation for sound legal judgment, sterling integrity, and fidelity to the interests of his clients commanded the largest practice in that particular branch of any member of the bar.

With him originated the custom of preparing for clients an abstract of title. During Mr. DeWitt's life time he associated with him in practice his sons Cornelius John, and Edward, and after their father's death they continued his business.

Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry in his memorial notice of Edward DeWitt, speaks of him as "A man of singularly sound judgment and great quickness of perception, his modesty prevented him from exhibiting in the courts the elegant learning and scholarly attainments which were so peculiarly his own. Devoted to the study of the law, he loved it to the last. Indeed for years he has deservedly occupied the position of the safest chamber counsel at the bar, and of being one of the best equity lawyers in the State."

In his address before the Supreme Court of the State in New York City moving that the Court do now adjourn out of respect for the memory of Cornelius John De Witt, the Hon. Clarkson N. Potter said, "He was the son of that distinguished lawyer and conveyancer Peter De Witt, who began to practice in this city about the beginning of the present century. Although a well read, studious, and competent lawyer, Mr. De Witt, like his brother Edward, had from natural modesty an aversion to the contests of the Forum—but he was none the less actively engaged in the discharge of grave professional duties which have connected the name of his firm with very many of the most important titles in our city. He was a man of such probity, amiability and intel-

ligence as commanded the confidence of the community, and will cause his loss to be felt by many of our most worthy families, whose adviser or friend his father, brother, or himself had been for three generations." Mr. John S. Woodward in seconding the motion remarked that "During a long period the De Witt family, commencing with the father, the venerable, learned and high-minded Peter De Witt, had borne a prominent and honourable part in the practice of those branches of the law more immediately connected with titles to real estate, trusts and wills, and none in the profession had repute for greater precision, care and diligence, high-toned integrity, and honour, than this family." The building 88 Nassau St., ever since occupied as offices by his descendants in succession in the firm, was erected in 1834.

Gen. 6.

JOHN WEST MASON,

m. 1841, Hannah Turner, b. 20 Aug., 1801, dau. of Andrew Gautier of Hanover, New Jersey, and Hannah, dau. of John Turner.

He entered Yale College in 1828, and continued attendance, though always in delicate health, until a severe illness required his withdrawal a few months before the time of graduation.

It had been his intention to enter the legal profession, but entire cessation from study, change of climate, and the freedom of country life were thought by his physicians to be needful for permanent benefit. He remained a short while at home, and in the summer of 1832 went to the West where he spent a year in different parts, eventually purchasing an estate of about a thousand acres near Newark, Kendall County, Illinois, where he resided for upwards of fifty years.

He was a man of scholarly mind and literary tastes, and owing to the almost complete deafness which came upon him in the most active part of his life, his chief relaxation during many years was in reading for direct information or mental stimulus.

A master of the English language, he wrote or spoke it with equal facility and admirable expression. A clever comprehension of what might be said, did much to replace in conversation the effect of his deafness.

He was high-minded and generous in his impulses, and noted for his hospitality. With a natural dignity he combined a most agreeable manner, and in his public as well as private relations of life was much respected and honoured.

Though the difficulty of hearing interfered much with his public usefulness, he always evinced a keen interest in the development and importance of the State, contributing as he could thereto, and to the end of his long life he remained a man well known in his county.

He was a prominent and efficient member of the Convention called in 1848 to revise the Constitution of the State.

He was active in aiding to organize in Newark the first Congregational church established in that part of Illinois, and an influential member in furthering the growth of that communion.

His wife d. 20 Oct., 1865, s. p.

He d. 25 July, 1884, at his estate near Newark.

The remains of both were interred in the private graveyard in Greenwich.

Andrew Gautier was the great-grandson of Jacques Gautier, a French gentleman, the first of the name in New York City, who came to America after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He was the descendant of a noble family of that name of Saint Blanchard, in the Province of Languedoc, France, and one of considerable prominence in the wars of the Huguenots. His family were among the early members of the Huguenot church L'Eglise du St. Esprit in New York City. They afterwards became parishioners of Trinity church in 1724, and members are buried in the family vault in Trinity churchyard.

He was educated at Kings College, now Columbia, entering at the age of fourteen in 1769, and was a lawyer by profession, though not practicing. He was twice married, his first wife being Mary, the only child of Captain Thomas Brown of Bergen County, New Jersey.

Gen. 7.

JAMES FITCH MASON,

m. 5 Nov., 1861, Frances Gay, b. 18 Apl., 1833, dau. of Samuel Hoxie of Lebanon.

He resides in Franklin near Norwich, Conn.

HAD ISSUE:

WILLIAM ALFRED, b. 25 Mar., 1863; m. 26 Jany., 1888, Mary Reed Gay, b. 15 Nov., 1858. He has several children three of whom are sons, and resides in Franklin.

FRANCES FITCH, b. 12 Aug., 1871; m. 16 Nov., 1893, Frederick Wayland Hoxie of Franklin.

Gen. 7.

AMOS LAWRENCE MASON, M.D.,

m. 30 Sept., 1874, Louisa Blake, b. 9 Apl., 1852, dau. of Rear-Admiral Charles Steedman, U. S. N., and Sarah, dau. of James Bishop, and adopted dau. of Richard Ronaldson of Philadelphia.

He graduated at Harvard University in 1863, and was for one year a student of law at the Harvard Law School and in the office of Mr. Horace Gray, who was afterwards a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States.

He then engaged in literary pursuits until the spring of 1865, when he spent several years in European study and travel. He entered the Harvard Medical School in 1868, where he remained four years, during the last of which he was house-officer in the Massachusetts General Hospital, and received the degree of M.D. in 1872. After a year's study in Germany he returned to Boston, and since then has practiced his profession there. He has been for many years one of the medical staff of the great City Hospital of Boston, has served as one of the physicians of the Carney Hospital, Channing Home for Incurables, and Boston Dispensary; has held the positions of Clinical Instructor in Auscultation and Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Harvard Medical School, and is one of the Standing Committee on the course of study. He has been president of the Suffolk District Medical Society, and of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement. He has made several journeys to Europe for study and travel, and one to the Nile and Syria in 1867-68.

Dr. Mason has written many articles for medical publications,

including various papers on typhoid, typhus, and the acute fevers.

His wife d. 3 Aug., 1908.

HAD ISSUE:

MARION STEEDMAN, b. 17 July, 1875; m. 11 Mar., 1902, Richard Thornton Wilson, Jr., son of Richard T. Wilson of New York City and Melissa Clementine Johnston of Macon, Ga. He graduated at Columbia College in 1887. He is a banker, and has held the office of Commissioner of Municipal Statistics in his native city. He has residences in New York City, Newport and near Beaufort, S. C. They have two daus., Louisa Steedman and Marion Mason.

Admiral Steedman was born in 1811 at St. James, Santee, S. C. He was the grandson of James Steedman who came to South Carolina from Ely, Fifeshire, Scotland, about 1768. James Steedman was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. On his mother's side the Admiral was descendant from the Blake and Jeannarett families, the Jeannarets being among the early Huguenot refugees. His grandfather, Captain John Blake, was also a Revolutionary officer of distinction. He was appointed midshipman in 1828. He was a gallant officer of great professional merit, and throughout his long period of service always exhibited a zeal and perserverance in every instance deserving of all praise. During the Mexican war he commanded one of the siege guns at the bombardment of Vera Cruz. He had commands in the Brazilian and Paraguayan expeditions. When the Civil War opened, though of southern birth, Commander Steedman remained loyal to the Government. He was on leave at the time, but volunteered to Admiral Du Pont for any service, and rendered great and timely assistance in keeping open railroad communication between Washington and the North, commanding the gun boat Maryland. Later he served in many important commands, aiding in the capture of the southern ports, and the blockade of Charleston. After being on special service for some time he was for several years in command of the Boston Navy Yard, and was placed on the retired list in September, 1873. His

last sea duty was as Rear Admiral commanding the South Pacific squadron 1872-73.

Gen. 7.

REV. CHARLES JEREMIAH MASON,

m. 10 May, 1892, Angelina Augusta, b. 7 June, 1865, dau. of Hon. William Lawrence Merry of San Francisco, and Alethea Blanchard, dau. of William Stewart Hill of New York City.

He graduated at Harvard University in 1879, studied for the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Conn., where he received his degree in 1883, and was made deacon by Bishop Paddock of Massachusetts. He was received into the priesthood by Bishop Stevens of Pennsylvania the following year.

He is Rector of Calvary church, Stonington, Conn., of which parish he was instituted minister in May, 1906. Before then he was curate of St. Ann's, Brooklyn Heights, for some six years; and previous to that at St. Mark's, West Orange, New Jersey.

He formerly had been curate or assistant at St. Mark's, Berkeley, California, at Grace church, San Francisco, at St. James, Philadelphia, at L'Eglise de St. Sauveur in that city, and at St. Anne's, Annapolis, Maryland.

HAD ISSUE:

BLANCHE LYMAN, b. 31 May, 1893.

HARRIET SARGENT, b. 10 June, 1894.

CHARLES JEREMIAH, JR., b. 26 Oct., 1899.

Mr. Merry was member of a New York City family. He had commanded steamships in the California trade until the year 1870; at which date he resigned from the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

He engaged in commercial interests at San Francisco until 1897, when he was appointed United States Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Salvador, with residence at San José, Costa Rica. He has been a promoter of the Inter-oceanic Canal since 1872.

Gen. 7.

JOSEPH TAYLOR MASON,

m. 18 June, 1862, Mary Elizabeth, b. 24 Apl., 1842, dau. of John Darling of Conklin, New York, and Naomi, dau. of Rev. John G. Lowe.

HAD ISSUE:

LYDIA A., b. 11 Nov., 1865; m., 29 Oct., 1885, William Crawford Swanton, son of William Swanton of Iowa City, Iowa. They have four children.

GEORGE DANIEL, b. 7 Oct., 1869; unm. (1903).

EDWARD L., b. 7 May, 1887, d. 6 Aug., 1888.

He died 28 July, 1896, in Binghamton, N. Y.

Gen. 7.

THEODORE WEST MASON,

m. 5 Dec., 1865, Elizabeth Matilda, b. 22 Mar., 1845, dau. of Alexander Viets Blake of Brooklyn, and Elizabeth Matilda, dau. of Gilbert Everingham of New York City, and Mary Woods Davis. The ceremony was performed in Grace church, Brooklyn Heights, by the rector the Rev. Dr. Eugene A. Hoffman, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Francis Vinton and the Rev. Dr. Greenleaf, the Right Rev. Dr. Whitehouse, Bishop of Illinois, giving the blessing.

He graduated in the special course of study at the New York University in June of 1861, after which he entered the Law School in the city of Albany, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1863 and was admitted to practice at a General Term of the Supreme Court in May of the same year.

For a time he remained in the office of his uncles, Messrs. C. J. & E. De Witt. He became interested in business with his brother-in-law, forming the firm of Blake, Mason & Co. but eventually retired to a country life in Greenwich, Conn., where he has mainly resided since the spring of 1866. He and his family are members of Christ church parish.

HAD ISSUE:

KATHARINE MAUD, b. 2 Nov., 1867; m. 9 Dec., 1885, James

Pott, Jr., son of James Pott of New York City, and Josephine, dau. of the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, D.D., LL.D., at one time rector of St. Thomas church and afterwards of Calvary church, and esteemed very eloquent as a preacher. He is at the head of the New York publishing house of James Pott & Co., established by his father. Mr. Pott, who d. in 1905, had been treasurer of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York for more than forty years, and filled other important offices in the Church. They are of the Potts of Dodd and Knowesouth, Roxburgh, Scotland, estates that have long been in the family. The first of the name in this country was Gideon, the father of Mr. James Pott, who came over in 1805 to New York City. They have three daus., Maud Eleanor, Josephine Hawks, and Helen Mason.

JOHN MEREDITH, b. 17 Aug., 1869.

THEODORA EVELYN, b. 15 Feby., 1871; m. 18 Apl., 1907, Beach Adonijah Laselle, at the church of St. Edward the Martyr, New York City, son of Arthur W. Laselle of St. Albans, Vermont. He is a mining engineer and owner, and is engaged in developing certain interests in British Columbia.

ALBERT WOODS, b. 6 Nov., 1882; d. 18 Mar., 1884.

Mr. Alexander V. Blake was the son of Rev. Dr. John Lauris Blake, who was well known in the Episcopal Church and an author of repute.

Mr. Blake was widely respected for his many excellent qualities, and was most pleasant to meet. In the various connections which his private and public relations of life brought him, there were many proofs of the unlimited confidence which was placed in his integrity and fidelity. He was prompt and decided in the dispatch of business, and exact in its methods and requirements. For a few years he was occupied as a publisher, but early in life became a member of the concern of A. B. & D. Sands & Co. the wholesale drug house, and for more than thirty years continued in that connection until the firm was dissolved.

He had been identified with the Brooklyn Savings Bank for many years, first as Trustee, then as Vice-President, and subsequently as Comptroller. He was a vestryman of Grace church,

and was the first treasurer of the Diocese of Long Island, being elected to that office continuously.

Mr. Blake m. again in Apl., 1858, Maria Elizabeth, dau. of Edward Whitehouse of Remsen St., a prominent New York City banker.

He had always been a resident of Brooklyn. He d. the 25 June, 1881.

Gen. 7.

LEWIS DUNCAN MASON, M.D.,

m. 20 Dec., 1883, Mrs. Mary Frances Dickson, b. 10 June, 1845, dau. of Col. Isaac Donnom Witherspoon of Yorkville, South Carolina, and Ann, dau. of Col. Joseph Reid of Virginia.

He graduated in the special course of study at the New York University in June of 1863, and entering the Long Island College Hospital in the city of Brooklyn, received the degree of M.D. in 1866.

He was appointed Attending Surgeon in the Out-Door-Department followed by the position of Adjunct Surgeon in the In-Door Department, and chief of surgical clinic.

In the year 1875 he was appointed surgeon in full on the Hospital staff and instructor in surgery to the College classes. This last position he retained up to 1882, when he resigned his connection with the Long Island College Hospital.

He became a member of the medical staff of the Inebriates Home at Fort Hamilton, Kings County, in 1866, as Visiting Physician, and continued such to the year 1882. He was then appointed Consulting Physician, which position he filled until the spring of 1894, when he retired from further connection with the institution.

Since Jany. of 1894 he has been connected as head of the consulting staff with Ardenale, a private sanitarium near Brooklyn for patients of the better class.

Besides the time devoted to his official duties, a general practice has occupied his attention and, while influenced by his interest in the progress of medicine, his preference has always been for the science and practice of surgery.

He has been a frequent contributor to medical periodicals, and has also published several papers on surgical topics.

He has written extensively on the effect of alcohol upon the human system, including several addresses, prominent as presenting the social statistics of cases, and the control and care of pauper inebriates in towns and cities.

Some of his papers have been translated and have received much attention in France, Germany, and Russia, besides being used in England for reference and quoted there in works on the subject of inebriety.

He is an honorary member of the Société de Médecine Mentale de Belgique, honorary member of the Society for the Study and Cure of Inebriety, London, England, and was one of the foreign vice-presidents of the Colonial and International Congress on Inebriety held in Westminster Town-hall, London, 6 July, 1887.

He is also a member of the British Medical Association.

He was elected one of the vice-presidents of the American Society for the Study and Cure of Inebriety, and since Jan'y. of 1891, has been President of the Society.

He is a Resident Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, the American Medical Association, and of the Medical Society of the County of Kings, Vice-President of the American Society for the Study of Alcohol and other Narcotics, and a member of the Committee on Criminology held in Chicago, Ill.

He is also a life member of the Long Island Historical Society and a life member and director of the New London Historical Society. He is one of the charter members and founders of the Rembrandt Club, established in 1880, an art club of 100 male members, and for the first three years of its organization was its secretary and historian.

He has always lived in the first ward, Brooklyn Heights, the place of his birth, and is an elder of the Second Presbyterian church; a director and Vice President of the Brooklyn City Mission and Tract Society, President of the Brooklyn City Bible Society and a director of the American Bible Society.

His wife died 20 Oct., 1901. s. p.

The Witherspoons were a prominent and influential family in South Carolina. For the third generation in succession to his father and grandfather, Col. Witherspoon was Governor of the

State. A distinguished member of the same family was Rev. John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and for many years President of Princeton College.

Gen. 7.

REV. ALFRED DE WITT MASON,

m. 18 Oct., 1883, Elizabeth, b. 21 Nov., 1860, dau. of James Swain of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Mary, dau. of Alexander Tully and Agnes MacArthur of Edinburgh, Scotland.

He graduated at Amherst College in June of 1877. Entering the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Brunswick he graduated there in 1880, receiving the degree of M.A. from Amherst the same year.

He was ordained in Oct., of 1880, and installed minister of the Reformed church in Locust Valley, L. I. In Nov., of 1882 he went to Brooklyn, being installed minister of the South Reformed church, where he remained in care of that church until Oct. of 1891, when he removed to Boonton, N. J. as minister of the Reformed church there.

In Jan'y. 1894 he was appointed editor of "The Mission Field," the official magazine of the Mission Boards of the Reformed Church in America, and later, as editorial secretary, had charge of that and several Church publications.

He was also appointed in 1896 the first Corresponding Secretary of the Department of Young People's Mission Work of the Reformed Church, having charge of the missionary interests throughout her Sunday schools and young people's societies, and was one of the organizers and for some years the President of The Christian Endeavor Missionary League of that Church. He was also one of the original founders of the Young People's Missionary Movement, and was chairman of its first conference for some years as member of its Executive Committee. He is a member of the "Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the World holding the Presbyterian System," and was a delegate to the Eighth General Council of the Alliance which met in Liverpool, Eng., in 1904 and also to the Ninth General Council which met in New York City. He was also a Fraternal Delegate from the General Synod of the Reformed Church to the General Assembly

of the Presbyterian Church in the United States which met in Savannah, Ga. For some years he has been Lecturer on the History of Missions in the Union Missionary Training Institute of Brooklyn, N. Y.

He is one of the editors of *The Christian Intelligencer*, the representative publication of the Reformed Church.

HAD ISSUE:

JANET DE WITT, b. 21 Oct., 1884.

MARY ELIZABETH, b. 18 Oct., 1888; d. 26 June, 1889.

ALFRED DE WITT, b. 13 July, 1895.

Mr. Swain was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1818, and came to Brooklyn, New York, in 1853, where he became engaged with the People's Gas Company, one of the first organizations of the kind in the city, and with which he continued until his death. He was well known in the section where he lived, and was prominent in church affairs, being for over thirty years a deacon or elder in the Bedford Reformed church, and was frequently a delegate to the Classes, Synods and other ecclesiastical courts of the Reformed Church. He d. in 1894.

SHORT SKETCHES OF THE TWO
GENERALS OF DISTINCTION
WITH WHOM
MAJOR MASON'S NAME IS ASSOCIATED
IN HIS EARLY ARMY SERVICE.

SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX.

THOMAS, third Lord Fairfax, better known as Sir Thomas Fairfax the eminent Parliamentary general and commander-in-chief during the Civil wars, was the eldest son of Lord Ferdinand Fairfax and Lady Mary Sheffield, daughter of the Earl of Mulgrave.

He was born 17 January, 1612, at Denton, on the banks of the Wharfe, near Otley, Yorkshire.

He was at St. Johns College, Cambridge, for about four years, 1626-30, and went thence in *April of* 1630 to Holland, as volunteer with the English army in the Low Countries under Lord Vere of Tilbury. (Lieut. John Mason was his companion-in-arms at this time.)

After the fall of Bois-le-Duc young Fairfax travelled into France, where he remained about eighteen months. He had not completely recovered from a fever caught during his service in the Netherlands, and soon becoming weary of an inactive life he arrived in London *in February of* 1632. Thence he returned to Yorkshire, where he passed the next three years of his life in assisting his grandfather in the management of his estates.

He married 20 June, 1637, Anne, fourth daughter of Lord Vere.

He was knighted by Charles I. in 1640, and came into the family title and estates on the death of his father in 1648.

The Fairfaxes, though serving at first under Charles I., were opposed to the arbitrary prerogatives of the Crown and declared for the Parliament. Lord Fairfax was made general of the forces of the North, his son Sir Thomas commanding the Horse under him. Sir Thomas rapidly rose in rank, and when the Earl of Essex resigned as commander-in-chief of the Parliamentary forces, he was appointed in his place on the 19 *February, 1645*. (It was at this time that Fairfax wrote to Major Mason to come back to England and accept with him a general's commission.)

After Parliament had been established he resigned his commission in 1650, in disgust with the intrigues which ensued, and retired to his family estates during the whole time of the Commonwealth.

He did not come forward again until he appeared at the head of a body of Yorkshire gentlemen in December of 1659, and such was the influence of Fairfax's name that many of the opposing forces quitted their colours and joined him. A free Parliament was called, and Fairfax was made member for Yorkshire.

He was placed at the head of the delegates appointed by the House of Commons in 1660, to wait upon Charles II. at The Hague and urge his speedy return, and accompanied the restored sovereign to his coronation. The remaining years of his life were spent in retirement at his seat in Yorkshire.

Lord Fairfax died at Nunappleton 12 November, 1671, and was buried in the choir on the south side of Bilbrough church.

The old Yorkshire family of which he was the distinguished head, in succession, is long since extinct. The title as now borne comes through the inheritance by a younger line of the Scotch baronetcy of Cameron, once purchased by the grandfather of Sir Thomas.

LORD VERE.

General Sir Horace de Vere, Baron of Tilbury, was the son of Geoffrey de Vere, the third son of John, fifteenth Earl of Oxford, and was born at Kirby Hall, Essex, in 1565.

He served with his eldest brother Sir Francis in the Netherlands, and was prominent in the victory near Nieuport, and in the defense of Ostend (1602). In the reign of James I. he commanded forces sent to assist the Elector Palatine.

After the death of his famous brother in 1608, he was lord-general of the English forces in the Low Countries, and when the Prince of Orange invested the fortified town of Bois-le-Duc on the 30 *April*, 1630, Sir Horace with his English contingent laid siege at two of the bastions. (It is here that Lord Fairfax and Lieut. Mason were with him.)

He was the first person raised to the peerage by Charles I. and was master-general of the ordnance for life.

He died 2 May, 1633 in London, and was buried with much military pomp in Westminster Abbey.

The noble English house of De Vere, of which Lord Oxford was the chief, no longer exists.

Bois-Le-Duc is the capital of the Province of North Brabant, twenty-eight miles S.E. of Utrecht. It stands at the confluence of the Dommel and the Aa, and is strongly fortified.

Originally a hunting lodge of the Brabant dukes, "Duke's Wood," it gradually increased, and in 1184 was raised to the rank of a town and surrounded with walls. Successive attempts made by the Netherlands to get possession of the town were futile; but at length in *the summer of 1630* it was captured by the auxiliary forces after a five months siege.

ADDENDUM.

IN RELATION to Major Mason's ancestry, so far as I know at this date, no information has yet been disclosed.

In the seventeenth century and later, when means of communication between the various countries were difficult at the best, there was not much correspondence to keep trace of home connections.

All accounts on record in this country establish his position and associations in the old country. This brings the search for his paternity to the families of the name in England. There is a tradition with some of the family, though without knowledge of its source, that the Major came of a Shropshire family.

A circumstance that might give consideration to this was the use in times past by certain ladies in the connection, of the Mason lion and the mermaid crest, to paint with fancy free or work in embroidery with the Fitch leopard.

There came to hand about the time of the Bi-centennial Celebration of the Foundation of Norwich, a sketch in colour of two lions combatant, with the name of Mason, but the device was not

correct in heraldic law, as it is considered that a lion cannot bear a rival in the field—and such having no record in the College of Arms can have no real existence. It had however the mermaid crest ppr.

As to the family bearings there is no doubt that the Mason charge is the Lion, though the arms of the several county families may vary in their quarterings, and the crest most used a Mermaid proper or in a tint.



[A. D. 1584]

The drawings here given are of early records in the Harleian Mss. and copies of the same in the Heralds College, London. The dates in the brackets are the years of the Heralds' visitations.



[A. D. 1622]

The description is, "Or, a Lion rampant double tête, azure. Crest, a Mermaid, with comb and glass, ppr."

They were the arms of Richardus le Mason de Minton Manor in Co. Salop A° 46 E. III (1373), of Mason of Delbury Hall, Didlebury, and Sir Richard Mason of Bishops Castle in that county; and are the same borne with the name or in quarterings in different parts of England, from Yorkshire to Hants and from Middlesex to Shropshire.

When I called on Rev. Scarlett Smith at the vicarage of St. Peter's church, Didlebury, Shrops, he showed me the manuscripts containing the parish registers, but there was no record among them dating between 1598 and 1683.

The main point we have to use is the accepted historical reference to his connection with Lord Thomas Fairfax during his service in the Netherlands, and a correspondence between them after the Major had been in this country some years.

There was produced for sale in London, July, 1890, a valuable private collection called "The Cosens Autographs," containing among other rare manuscripts unheard of before then, "The Fairfax Correspondence, filling twelve portfolios," and which speaks of the times and the men when Sir Thomas took so active a part. It sold for £105 and was purchased by Quaritch. This might prove an aid in the search, if it can be traced.

Sir Horace de Vere, upon the death of his famous brother Sir Francis in 1608, was Lord-General of the English forces in the Low Countries. He would have been twenty-two years in command at the time of the siege of Bois-le-Duc in 1630, and sixty-five years of age, an old soldier, as he had been in foreign service before the victory at Nieuport, and was prominent in the defense of Ostend in 1602.

If Lieut. Mason had been some years with the English forces in the Low Countries, as Ellis in his *Life of John Mason* says "it is possible," he probably had been "bred to arms" under General de Vere, and had become the companion-in-arms of young Fairfax when the latter came out as a volunteer.

The statement usual in all the references to Major Mason's early army life that he "was bred to arms under Sir Thomas Fairfax in the Netherlands," seems to have been passed along without criticism, but cannot be substantiated by the published facts of General Fairfax's life, and the history of the times. He undoubtedly was the friend of Sir Thomas, and the regard the latter had for him, and the esteem in which he held Major Mason's military talents, is shown by the urgency with which he wrote him to come back to England and accept a commission of high rank in the army.

The Sir Thomas Fairfax who purchased the Scotch baronetcy of Cameron is the only one of the family of record as serving in the Netherlands. He was the grandfather of General Fairfax; "He was captain of a company of troopers in the Low Countries, in the prime of life interested in agriculture and the raising of

stock, and in his old age lived a retired life. After four score years he died in 1640."

Lieut. Mason could not have been "bred to arms" with this Sir Thomas, for he must still have been in his early boyhood days, when the captain was in the Netherlands and in his prime of life at home on his estates in Yorkshire.

Lord Fairfax had not received the title of knighthood at the time he was in the Netherlands, and never commanded an army there. He was knighted by Charles I. in 1640.

Young Fairfax went directly from college in April of 1630, as a volunteer on the staff of his future father-in-law General Sir Horace de Vere, commanding the English contingent in the Low Countries, and remained there only five months, during the siege of Bois-le-Duc. He was then in the nineteenth year of his age.

Lieut. Mason was probably with the army at that time, and may have been a member of the General's staff, or at all events in a position that placed the young men in intimate intercourse. Mason was then about twenty-eight years of age.

After leaving the Netherlands Fairfax went to France, where he remained until February of 1632.

There is no record produced as to Mason's movements until his commission from the Governor of Massachusetts Bay in December of 1632. Whether he was with Lord Fairfax in France, and landed at the same time in London in February of 1632, and thence sailed for the Colonies arriving the last of the year, may be conjectured.

Greenwich, Conn;
1904.

THEO. W. MASON.

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